

THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING



Today, one in every six Americans, or 45 million people, is 60 years of age or older. In the next 30 years, one in every four, or almost 88 million Americans, will reach that milestone. Given this longevity revolution, baby boomers, who are now in their late 30s, 40s, and 50s, can expect to live well into their 80s and 90s. While most older adults are active members of their families and communities, others need some type of assistance, ranging from help with transportation or preparing meals, to total care.

To help meet the diverse needs of the growing number of older persons in the United States, the Older Americans Act of 1965 (OAA), as amended, created the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA). AoA provides leadership in the federal government for the organization, coordination, and provision of supportive home and community-based services and for generating new opportunities for meeting the needs of older adults and their caregivers. AoA is not only the nation's focal point and advocacy agency for older persons. It also provides funds to support programs and services, and it assists in protecting the rights of vulnerable and at-risk older persons.

Home- and Community-Based Services

Access Services — Information and assistance, outreach, case management, and transportation.

Caregiver Services — Respite, adult day care, counseling and education. AoA also works to assist older persons with Alzheimer's disease and supports caregivers by improving coordination between health care and social service systems.

Community Services — Congregate meals, senior center activities, adult day care, nursing home ombudsman services, elder abuse prevention, legal services, employment and pension counseling, health promotion, and fitness programs.

In-Home Services — Home-delivered meals, chores, home repair, modifications and rehabilitation, homemaker/home health aides, and personal care.

Working in close partnership with its sister agencies in the Department of Health and Human Services and throughout the Executive branch of government, AoA leads a



national aging network of 57 State Units on Aging, 655 Area Agencies on Aging, 225 Tribal organizations representing 300 tribes, and thousands of service providers, senior centers, caregivers, and volunteers.

Consumer Information and Protection

Empowering older persons and their family members throughout their life course is a critical component of AoA's consumer information and protection role. AoA-funded programs link people to available services, protect the rights of the vulnerable and at-risk, offer education about ways to detect and prevent elder abuse and consumer fraud, and provide opportunities for older persons to enhance their health. Included among these services are:

The Eldercare Locator, a national toll-free service (1-800-677-1116), helps callers find necessary, convenient services and resources in their own communities or throughout the country.

Insurance, Benefits, and Pension Counseling Programs help older Americans access their pensions and make informed insurance and health care choices.

Long Term Care Ombudsman Programs are elder rights protection programs that investigate and resolve complaints made by or for residents of nursing, board and care, and similar adult care homes. AoA supports the training of thousands of paid and volunteer long term care ombudsmen, insurance counselors, and other professionals who assist with spotting and reporting fraud and abuse in nursing homes and other settings.

Operation Restore Trust (ORT) uses innovative, proactive partnerships across the federal, state, and community levels to identify and report health care waste, fraud and abuse. ORT programs recruit and train retired professionals, such as doctors, nurses, attorneys, accountants, and law enforcement personnel, to serve as health care "fraud busters" to combat and prevent this serious national problem.

AoA's website (<http://www.aoa.gov>) provides timely information for and about older persons, their families, and professionals and organizations involved in aging programs.

Native Americans

Older Native Americans are among the most disadvantaged groups in the country. AoA's Office for American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian Programs is

responsible for advocacy on behalf of older Native Americans. AoA awards grants to 225 American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal organizations and two public or private nonprofit organizations serving Native Hawaiians. In total, all of these organizations represent more than 300 tribes across the United States. Training and technical assistance are provided to grant recipients. Every effort is made to ensure that home and community-based services are in keeping with the cultural heritage and specific needs of each person receiving assistance.

In the New Century...The Future Is Aging

In the 21st century, demographic realities will require all Americans to take stock of what an aging America means to them. AoA has given high priority to raising public awareness about the importance of comprehensive life course planning. It has given special attention to health and long term care arrangements, health disparities that affect minority populations, financial security, living arrangements, social aspects, and the challenges and opportunities which come with longevity. Additionally, AoA is committed to helping older adults be knowledgeable, protected consumers.

Working in close partnership with its sister agencies in the Department of Health and Human Services, the Administration on Aging provides leadership, technical assistance, and support to the national aging network of 57 State Units on Aging, 655 Area Agencies on Aging, 225 Tribal and native organizations representing 300 American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal organizations and 2 organizations serving Native Hawaiians, plus thousands of service providers, adult care centers, caregivers, and volunteers.

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Eldercare Locator: 1-800-677-1116, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET